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NEWS ITEMS

A copy of the 4th Annual Report of the Official Seed Testing Station for England and Wales has recently been received. The Station, a part of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, moved into new buildings at Cambridge, England, in the fall of 1921. According to the report the station tested during the year 1920-21 nearly 24,000 samples of seed both for purity and for germination. Seeds tested were of many kinds, clover, wheat, mangolds (field beets), barley, peas, and rye grass leading in the number of samples. Over 2,500 samples of oats were tested, 1,900 of wheat and 14 of maize! Most of the seeds tested were sent by dealers, only seven percent coming from farmers. Such work should be of great value and help in the making of definite standards for seeds.

In our January-February issue we spoke of the effort of the government to eradicate "Flanders Poppies" which had been found on ballast in N. J. In connection with the celebration of Memorial Day by the wearing of poppies, suggestions have appeared in the daily press in many parts of the country that the poppies be planted as in commemoration of the world war. When such plans are considered it is well to remember the results of introducing the English sparrow, the starling, the water hyacinth, and other species of supposed value.

Mr. John M. Fogg, Jr., now at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, will on September first take charge of the Herbarium of the University of Pennsylvania.